DEG-10002/29 10105sh

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- 1. A punctum plug which is more easily visualized when positioned within a punctual canal, the plug comprising:
 - a body having an outwardly exposed surface when so positioned; and
- a substance causing at least the outwardly exposed surface to contrast with surrounding tissue, such that the use of the substance causes the plug to be more easily.
- 6 visualized than if the substance were not present.
- The punctum plug of claim 1, wherein the substance is disposed on the
 outwardly exposed surface.
- The punctum plug of claim 1, wherein the substance is disposed within theplug body.
- 4. The punctum plug of claim 1, wherein the substance includes an organic or inorganic phosphor, a fluorescent material, reflective beads, quantum dots, a dye or pigment that contrasts with surrounding tissue.
- 5. The punctum plug of claim 1, wherein the plug is illuminated with light at a nillumination wavelength, and wherein the substance generates radiated light at a wavelength other than the illumination wavelength.
 - 6. The punctum plug of claim 5, wherein the illumination wavelength is in

- 2 the violet or ultraviolet portion of the spectrum.
- 7. The punctum plug of claim 5, wherein the radiated light is in the visible 2 spectrum.
- 8. The punctum plug of claim 5, wherein the radiated light is outside the visible spectrum, the invention further including a detector for detecting the radiated light.
- 9. A system for determining whether or not a punctum plug is positioned

 2 within the punctal canal of a person's eye, the system comprising:

the punctum plug of claim 1; and

- at least one optical element permitting the eye to view itself, to be viewed by the other eye, or by a second person.
- 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the optical element includes a source of light at one or more illumination wavelengths causing the plug to reflect or re-radiate light.
- The system of claim 10, wherein the light which is reflected or re-radiated
 by the plug occurs at one or more wavelengths which are different from the illumination wavelength or wavelengths.

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- 12. The system of claim 11, further including a filter to block or separate the reflected or re-radiated wavelength(s) from the illumination wavelength(s).
- 13. The system of claim 11, further including a detector to detect the reflected2 or re-radiated wavelength(s).
 - 14. The system of claim 9, wherein the optical element includes a magnifier.
- 15. The system of claim 9, wherein the optical element includes a beam

 2 splitter or mirror permitting the eye to view itself or to be viewed by the other eye, or by

 a second person.
 - 16. Apparatus for viewing a punctum plug illuminated by a source of light in a person's eye, comprising:
 - a lens for magnifying the image of the punctum plug;
- at least one light redirecting element for presenting the magnified image of the plug to an eye of an observer; and
- one or more optical element for blocking the light from the source of light from reaching the observer's eye.
 - 17. The apparatus of claim 16, including a plurality of light redirecting

- elements enabling the person to view the eye containing the plug by the person's other eye.
- 18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the light redirecting element enables a person other than the person wearing the plug to view the plug.
- 19. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the light redirecting element enables
 2 the person wearing the plug to view the plug with the person's other eye.
 - 20. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein:
- 2 the light redirecting element is switchable between a first position, such that a person other than the person wearing the plug is able to view the plug; and
- 4 a first position, such that the person wearing the plug is able to view the plug with the person's other eye.
 - 21. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein:
- the plug radiates light at a wavelength other than the one used for illumination; and
- 4 the optical element for blocking the light from the source includes a wavelengthselective filter.